

United States House of Representatives. People come up to me afterwards and say, "I cannot believe that. I did not know that."

So I am hoping, by coming to the floor once a week, that I can encourage the leadership both, again, Republican and Democrat, to move this bill. There are other ideas that Members have, and they are good ideas. But I tell my colleagues that we have researched this thing for months going back a year ago, and what we found out, that if one really wants to make sure that those who qualify for food stamps are the ones that receive the assistance and no one drops through the cracks, then it has to be this bill that we have introduced that would give a \$500 tax credit.

If there should be some movement on this bill, I hope, quite frankly, that, in a bipartisan way, we would raise that figure from \$500 to \$1,000.

So, Madam Speaker, I am going to close now. But, again, I want to remind the Members of the House that not only this Marine, this Marine represents everybody that is in uniform. We are sending our troops around this Nation just like a police force. I think between 1991 and 1999, they have been on 149 operations or deployments. I think about 60 percent of those in uniform are married.

So, again, I hope that we, in a bipartisan way, before we leave in October, will pass legislation that those that are on food stamps will know that we care about them. Because I know truthfully, Madam Speaker, that the American people are just outraged that anyone in uniform is on food stamps.

#### THIRTEEN JEWS HELD IN SHIRAZ, IRAN ON CHARGES OF ESPIONAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to address this House on the issue of the 13 Jews being held in the city of Shiraz in Iran and on trial on charges of espionage. Let me first provide a bit of background. The Jewish community of Iran has been there since the Babylonian captivity over 2,500 years ago. It is the oldest Jewish community anywhere in the world except for Israel itself. For 2,500 years, Jews have lived in peace and in loyalty to whichever regime has governed Persia, now Iran.

□ 2000

In 1979, the Iranian revolution created the Islamic Republic. Since then, that Islamic Republic has found it necessary or appropriate for some reason to oppress its religious minorities. Its treatment of those of the Bahai faith is known to many of us and is deplorable. And as to those who practice the Jewish faith, some 17 have been killed in the last 21 years, roughly one a year,

always after some sort of show trial, always absurd charges followed by execution.

In February of 1979, the government of Iran, perhaps dissatisfied with the idea of only one trumped-up execution a year of the Jewish community, instead decided to arrest some 13 Jews on absurd charges. They were charged with spying for the United States and spying for Israel.

Now, why can I brand these charges so absurd? Well, Madam Speaker, here in the United States we live in a multi-ethnic, multicultural society. People of all races, religions, and ethnicities are found in the National Security Administration, the CIA, the FBI, and other positions of importance to our national security. And so no matter what a person's ethnic background, every boy and girl in America could find themselves in a position where they could be tempted to become a spy. And in fact we have Anglo American spies in our history and Chinese American spies. Perhaps there have even been Jewish American spies.

But Iran is a very different country. No one of the Jewish faith is allowed anywhere near anything of national security significance in Iran. And so to think that the CIA would reach out to this one small community and from there hire its spies is absolutely absurd. We could not be the world's only superpower if we hired as our spies those very few individuals in Iran absolutely precluded from getting the information that a spy might want.

These charges are not only absurd, but at the beginning of this month the trials began. The trials are modeled after those of Joseph Stalin; show trials in which there is no evidence except confession, and the confessions so devoid of information that they are evidence not of guilt but of the fear of the defendant. No information is given as to what the espionage sought to discover, what information was passed, to whom it was passed, or how it was passed. No information at all comes out in this trial except the fear of the defendants. Their confessions are evidence perhaps of torture, but not of guilt. Not since the days of Joseph Stalin have we seen such trials.

The question is what will the world do about it? The key is to have not only the American representative at the World Bank but the representatives of Germany and Japan stand up and say human rights does matter and to vote to delay any World Bank loan to this Islamic regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran. Until these 13 innocents are released, the World Bank should not hide behind professions that somehow its loans are only being used for a particular purpose, because loans are money that is fungible and that money will go to construction companies in Iran selected by and authorized by the Iranian government.

We must stand up for human rights. The World Bank is where this trial will be on trial.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I want to talk tonight about prescription drugs and, most importantly, about prescription drug prices.

We have had some discussion. The good news is, I think here in Washington, that there is a growing bipartisan feeling that we need to do something particularly for senior citizens about prescription drugs this year. The bad news is, it appears to me that we are going to continue just to throw good money after bad.

I have a chart here that describes, I think, what is a big part of the problem we have with prescription drugs. These are some comparison prices for one of the most commonly prescribed drugs in the United States. It is a drug called Prilosec. They are currently running a pretty aggressive advertising campaign. It is the purple pill. If someone buys those purple pills in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and again these are not my numbers, these are from an HMO in my State called Health Partners, but they did some research and found if an individual buys a 30-day supply of Prilosec in Minneapolis, Minnesota, they pay \$99.95. But if someone happens to be vacationing in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and they take the same prescription into a pharmaceutical drugstore, they will pay \$50.88. And, if someone happened to be vacationing in Guadalajara, Mexico, for exactly the same drug, made in exactly the same plant, under the exact same FDA approval, they would pay only \$17.50.

As a matter of fact, Health Partners claims that if they could recover just half of the savings between the United States and Canada, they could save their subscribers \$30 million a year.

When we start applying numbers like that to how much the Federal Government spends on prescription drugs every year, last year, according to the Congressional Budget Office we, the Federal Government, spent over \$15 billion on prescription drugs. Now, if we are paying 40 percent more than the folks on the north side and the south side of our borders, just imagine how much the Federal Government could save through Medicare and Medicaid, the VA, and other benefits.

Let me just run through some of the differences between what we pay in the United States for commonly prescribed brand name drugs and what they pay in Europe for exactly the same drugs. Premarin, \$14.98 here, they pay \$4.25 in Europe; Synthroid, \$13.84 versus \$2.95;

Coumadin, and this is a drug my dad takes, and a lot of senior citizens take this, it is a blood thinner, we pay, the average price is \$30.25, they pay \$2.85; Prozac, \$36.12, \$18.50 over in Europe. Here we get a pretty good price, in Minneapolis. They say the average price for Prilosec, for a 30-day supply, is \$109, in Europe it is \$39.25.

Madam Speaker, the answer to our prescription drug problem in some respects does not require a whole new Federal agency. A big part of the problem, and I would like to share with Members and anyone who would like a copy, we can get a copy of a newsletter that was done by the Life Extension Foundation. It is available by calling my office at the Capitol or just sending an e-mail. We are easy to get ahold of. But this is an interesting little brochure and it talks about the differentiation and it really gets down to what the real problem is.

The real problem is our own FDA. Our own Food and Drug Administration is keeping American citizens from bringing prescription drugs across the border. I think the best comparison that I can give, let us say, for example, that there are three drugstores, one downtown, one on the north side of town and one on the south side of town, but our own FDA says you can only shop at the one downtown. Even though they are charging, according to the Federal Government in the United States, the drug companies are charging 56 percent more than the prices in Canada, but our own FDA says we cannot shop at a store in Canada.

Now, the reason this is important is because we have what is called the North American Free Trade Agreement. That means the goods and services are supposed to go across the border freely. And just about all goods and services do, except prescription drugs. Madam Speaker, we need to make it easier for seniors and all Americans to get the prescriptions that they need and we need to get competitive prices. One way we can do that is open up our borders.

The FDA has overstepped its actual authority. In fact, if Members would like a copy, this is the actual language, which basically says it is the FDA's responsibility to prove that the drugs that are being brought into the United States are not safe. Unfortunately, the way they have interpreted this law is they have said, no, it is the responsibility of the consumer. We want to put that responsibility back on the FDA, where it belongs.

We should not allow our own FDA to stand between our consumers and lower drug prices.

#### WORKING FOR RESUMPTION OF INDIA-PAKISTAN DIALOGUE ON KASHMIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, recently we have seen some reason for hope about the resumption of a dialogue between Pakistan and India on resolving the Kashmir conflict. But we have also received a reminder of how difficult the path toward dying dialogue can be.

On the hopeful side, the United States has asked Pakistan to take concrete steps for the resumption of a productive dialogue with India and a return to what is known as the "Spirit of Lahore" so that there will be no more Kargils.

I should explain, Madam Speaker, that Lahore is a city in Pakistan near the border with India. It was the scene not much more than a year ago of a very amicable meeting between India's Prime Minister Vajpayee and the former Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif. Given the longstanding animosity between the two South Asian neighbors, the image of the two prime ministers embracing and pledging to work in a spirit of partnership and respect was heart-warming, promising a new era in bilateral relations.

But a short time later there was Kargil. Kargil is the name of a town in Kashmir under India's jurisdiction near the line of control that separates the areas controlled by India and Pakistan. In May of 1999, Pakistani-backed forces crossed that line and attacked India's defensive positions near Kargil. This bold gambit by Pakistan was not successful militarily. Ultimately, it proved to be even more of a disaster militarily for Pakistan, and the United States urged Pakistan to withdraw its forces back to its side of the line of control. Our government refused to go along with Pakistan's bid to strengthen its position by internationalizing the crisis by trying to get the United States to step in as a mediator in the bilateral dispute.

What little was left of the "Spirit of Lahore," Madam Speaker, was further eroded last October when a military coup in Pakistan removed the civilian government from power and threw Prime Minister Sharif in jail.

In a recent interview with an international news service, our Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Karl Inderfurth, said that a solution to the Kashmir project must be homegrown and not exploited from the outside. Mr. Inderfurth expressed that the State Department was trying to move away from the old days when there was typically a pro-Pakistan tilt in U.S. policy in the region, to a more even-handed approach for working with both of the major South Asian nations. But he stated, and I quote, "Right now we have more opportunities to pursue with India, and, frankly, right now we have many more concerns about the direction Pakistan is heading." He also

expressed hope that Pakistan would take concrete steps that would allow a productive and serious dialogue to be resumed with India.

Madam Speaker, I would stress that the most helpful concrete step that Pakistan could take would be to do all in its power to end the cross-border terrorism that has caused so much suffering to the people of Kashmir, Hindu and Muslim alike. While India has made clear its willingness to negotiate in good faith with Pakistan, India also has to maintain a vigilant defensive posture for as long as the Pakistani-supported cross-border terrorism continues.

Madam Speaker, I believe that President Clinton's recent trip to South Asia, which I had the opportunity to take part in, has played a significant role in helping to reduce tensions and hostility between Pakistan and India. As Secretary Inderfurth said, "The President's visit has changed the terms of the relationship between the United States and India, the world's two largest democracies." The President made it clear to both India and Pakistani leaders that the U.S. would be happy to work with both countries as friends to try to encourage dialogue, but it is not our place to dictate the terms of the peace process in Kashmir much less the outcome.

The great thing about the Lahore process is that it rose as a bilateral initiative between India and Pakistan. The key for breathing life into the bilateral Lahore declarations is for Pakistan to accept India's outstretched hand. And so far, unfortunately, Pakistan has been sending somewhat mixed signals.

Meanwhile, Madam Speaker, we have seen how dangerous the Kashmiri militant movement, which is supported by Pakistan, has become. Over the weekend we heard from one of the militant leaders, Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar, who was one of the three militants freed last December by the Indian government in exchange for freeing the innocent hostages being held in the hijacked Indian Airlines plane. According to a news account from the AP, Mr. Zargar dismissed the idea of negotiations with India, promising to stay on the path of jihad, or holy war. He threatened punishment for any Kashmiri who opened talks with India. And this, unfortunately, is the true face of the so-called freedom movement in Kashmir.

□ 2015

Mr. Speaker, by taking steps towards negotiation, Pakistan could help to isolate and undercut these terrorist groups operating in Kashmir. So far, Pakistan has done just the opposite, actively supporting the terrorists. But at some point, I hope that the Pakistani leadership will recognize that that strategy is increasingly turning Pakistan into a pariah state.